

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0928

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, UNGA, SG

SUBJ: SENGHOR COMMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS IN WAKE
OF 30TH UNGA

SUMMARY: IN NOV 21 MEETING WITH AMBASSDAOR, PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID HE HOPED US AND SENEGAL COULD REMAIN FRIENDS AND CONTINUE DIALOGUE EVEN IF US CUT HUMANITARIAN AID IN RESPONSE TO SENEGAL'S UN VOTING. HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT ROUGH US POLICIES VIS-A-VIS AFRICANS IN NEW YORK WOULD WIN US FRIENDS. AMBASSADOR STRESSED NEED IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO BE MUTUALLY HELPFUL, AND REGRETTE LACK OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION ON ZIONISM AND KOREA. AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE INSTRUCTED COMMENTS ON STATEMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO. FINALLY, SENGHOR CONFIRMED THAT HIS INTERESTS ON CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP WHICH BEGAN NOV 23 INCLUDE BOTH ANGOLA AND EXTENSION OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID HE HAD CONVOKED ME FOR NOV 21 MEETING
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BECAUSE THERE WERE RUMORS THAT US WAS ANGRY WITH SENEGAL

AND THAT WE WERE GOING TO CUT OUR AID. A JOURNALIST HAD ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION AT DAKAR AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM MIDDLE EAST. SENGHOR SAID HE HOPED US WOULD NOT CUT ITS AID, WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WAS GIVEN ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. BUT IF US FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO, HE HOPED US AND SENEGAL COULD REMAIN FRIENDS ALL THE SAME. WE DID NOT AGREE ON CERTAIN ISSUES, BUT SAME WAS TRUE OF SENEGAL'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THREATS, HE SAID, WERE NOT EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH SENEGALESE. SENEGAL WISHED TO ENLARGE RATHER THAN REDUCE ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH UNITED STATES. BUT HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT NEW TOUGH POLICY OF DEALING WITH AFRICAN STATES IN NEW YORK WAS MOST PERSUASIVE METHOD TO WIN FRIENDS. IN ANY EVENT, HE HOPED OUR DIALOGUE WOULD CONTINUE. HE SAID IT WAS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT, IN MIDST OF HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, HE HAD SENT MESSAGE INDICATING HIS DESIRE TO TALK TO ME IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN. (ONLY OTHER AMBASSADOR HE WOULD SEE WAS THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIOTO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IN MIDDLE EAST.)

2. HE WENT ON TO DISCUSSION OF KOREA AND ANGOLA (BEING REPORTED SEPTELS). HE ALSO DISCUSSED RATIONALE FOR SENEGALESE VOTE ON ZIONISM WHICH WAS SAME AS THAT HE MADE TO TREASURY/CODEL (DAKAR 6683).

3. I TOLD PRESIDENT THAT AS US AMBASSADOR I HAD MADE NO THREATS TO GOS ON AID. I HAD STRESSED MUTUALITY OF OUR INTERESTS AND DESIRE OF US TO BE HELPED BY SENEGAL ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US IN SAME SPIRIT THAT WE HELPED SENEGAL IN TIME OF NEED. I NOTED THAT OUR TOTAL PATTERN OF RELATIONS WAS MORE DEVELOPED TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. THERE WERE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION IN SEVERAL AREAS. HOWEVER, OUR RELATIONS IN NEW YORK ON UN QUESTIONS DID NOT MATCH SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION WE FOUND IN DAKAR. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED BY SENEGAL'S VOTES ON ZIONISM AND KOREA, ALL THE MORE BECAUSE WE FELT TWO COUNTRIES SUCH AS OURS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT MORE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESULTS ON THESE ISSUES.

4. TURNING TO ILO, I MADE POINTS AS INSTRUCTED STATE 262229. SENGHOR THANKED ME AND INDICATED HE HAD READ THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO SYG BLANCHARD BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON IT.

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5. SENGHOR CONFIRMED THAT, IN ADDITION TO ANGOLA, ON HIS CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP TO GABON, CONGO AND ZAIRE (DAKAR 6615) HE WAS ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND TO PRESS EQUATORIAL ATLANTIC STATES TO JOIN TO PROVIDE A MORE EQUITABLE FRANCOPHONE-ANGLOPHONE BALANCE TO BETTER OFFSET NIGERIA; SEE DAKAR 6343).
AGGREY

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